

Figurative Language/ Literary Elements

Simile- a figure of speech in which two unlike things are compared using “like” or “as.” Example: “She is like a rose.”

Metaphor- a figure of speech in which a term or phrase is applied to something to which it is not literally applicable in order to suggest a resemblance, as in “A mighty fortress is our God.”

Extended Metaphor: When a comparison of two unlike things is inferred throughout an extended piece of writing. Example: In the poem "Atlantis-- A Lost Sonnet," the lost and drowned city of Atlantis is being compared to the speaker's lost romance as if it had been drowned.

Allusion- An indirect reference to some piece of knowledge not actually mentioned. Allusions usually come from a body of information that the author presumes the reader will know. For example, an author who writes, “She was another Helen,” is alluding to the proverbial beauty of Helen of Troy.

Imagery- The mental pictures created by vivid adjectives and verbs in a piece of writing: The imagery of “The Waste Land” — “crumbling towers, dried-up wells, toppled tombstones” — conveys the author's sense of a civilization in decay.

Irony- The use of words to mean something very different from what they appear on the surface to mean. Jonathan Swift uses irony in “A Modest Proposal” when he suggests the eating of babies as a solution to overpopulation and starvation in Ireland. It was ironic in “The Monkey’s Paw,” when the family got the \$200 they had wished for, but only at the expense of the life of their son. The slap in the face of irony can often be morbidly hilarious or sickeningly unfortunate.

Personification- A figure of speech in which inanimate objects or abstractions are endowed with human qualities or are represented as possessing human form, as in *Hunger sat shivering on the road* or *Flowers danced about the lawn*.

Foreshadowing- when the author uses clues within their writing to hint at what will happen later on in a story.

Symbolism: When a word or idea in literature has a literal meaning and a figurative meaning. When a person, place, thing, or event that has meaning in itself also represents, or stands for, something else. Examples: a lamb might represent innocence; a bald eagle might represent liberty or freedom; The green reflection on the boys’ faces from The Lord of the Flies was literally the reflection from the lagoon, but figuratively it represented the greed for power.

Idiom: a common phrase that is not to be taken literally.
Example: There is a frog in my throat.

Kenning: a metaphorical phrase used in Anglo-Saxon poetry to replace a concrete noun.
Example: When Beowulf travels the “whale road.” The “whale road” is a kenning for the sea. Bilbo Baggins also is referred to as “Barrell-rider” or “Ring bearer.”

Refrain: When a phrase, line, or stanza is repeated in a work of poetry; meant to emphasize the tone

Sound Devices

Assonance: a repetition of **vowel sounds** within words (a,e,i,o,u, and sometimes y sounds)

Example: white rice

These words contain a long "i" sound within the words

Consonance: a repetition of consonant sounds within words (b,c,d,f,g,h,j,k,l,m,n,p,q,r,s,t,v,w,x,z sounds and blend sounds) . It is a lot like alliteration except that the consonant sounds can occur anywhere within the words, not just at the beginning.

Mammals named Sam are clammy.

Alliteration: a repetition of the same beginning sounds of words

"her pigtails padded her perfectly plump face..."

Blind to a broken man's dream, a hard lesson

Court cases keep me guessin'

-2Pac

End Rhyme: When corresponding or parallel words have the same ending sound

Lightening, thunder, all around
Soon the rain falls on the ground

I tire of writing poems and rhyme
I think I need vacation time

Internal Rhyme: When words rhyme within a line of poetry or prose; Similar and can sound like assonance; *cross* and *toss* in the following line are an example of internal rhyme; while *hot*, *cross*, and *toss* are examples of assonance.
"And you're *hot* and you're *cross*, and you tumble and *toss* till there's nothing twixt you and the ticking."

Stressed and Unstressed Marks (Rhythm): when you break apart the syllables of a word to create a rhythm within a line or sentence. Stressed syllables are marked with a (/), while unstressed syllables are marked with (U). Listening the rise and fall of your voice and tapping something as you read aloud can help decipher these rhythms.

Iamb

Whose woods | these are | I think | I know.

Trochee

Irish | poets | learn your | trade.

Anapest

As I came | to the edge | of the woods.

Dactyl

Half a league, | Half a league, | Half a league, | onward.

Spondee

Now, | by | heaven, | My blood begins my safer guides to rule, ...